

Scope of Practice for Nurses

Vocational Nurse

Registered Nurse

(1) Clarification of Practice Parameters

Directed practice under the supervision of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, physician, dentist, or podiatrist.* *(Independent practice not permitted)*

**Direct (onsite or on-unit) supervision is not required. The LVN must have a resource person accessible telephonically or by some other similar means. Proximity to the LVN's practice setting and the level of licensure of a supervisor (RN, MD, etc.) must be determined by the LVN and his/her supervisor on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with any other laws that are applicable in the practice setting.*

(2) Provider of Care:

- (a) Assist in the determination of predictable healthcare needs of clients within structured healthcare settings who are experiencing common, well defined health problems with predictable outcomes.
- (b) Utilize a systematic approach to provide individualized, goal-directed nursing care by:
 - (i) collecting data and performing focused nursing assessments;
 - (ii) participating in the planning of nursing care needs for clients, and in modifying the nursing care plan for assigned clients;
 - (iii) implementing appropriate aspects of care within the LVN's scope of practice, including compliance with other laws as are applicable to the LVNs practice setting;
 - (iv) implementing the teaching plan for clients with common health problems and well defined learning needs;
 - (v) providing direct basic care to assigned multiple clients in structured settings;
 - (vi) assist in the evaluation of the client's responses and outcomes to therapeutic interventions; and
 - (vii) utilize a problem-solving approach as the basis for decision making in Vocational Nurse practice

(3) Coordinator of Care:

Assign specific tasks, activities and functions and maintain appropriate supervision of licensed and unlicensed personnel in structured health settings for clients with predictable health care needs in accordance with designated job descriptions and/or job duties.

(4) Member of a Profession:

- (a) Assume accountability and responsibility for the quality of nursing care provided to clients.
- (b) Act as a client advocate to maintain a safe environment for clients.
- (c) Demonstrate behaviors that promote development of positive outcomes in relation to the practice of vocational nursing.

(1) Clarification of Practice Parameters

Practice set broadly by the NPA, Section 301.002, that precludes RNs from engaging in "acts of medical diagnosis or prescription of therapeutic or corrective measures"; RNs are permitted to engage in independent practice within the scope of their licensure.

(2) Provider of Care:

- (a) Determine the predictable or unpredictable health status and health needs of clients (individual and family) through interpretation of health data and preventive health practice in collaboration with clients and interdisciplinary health care team members.
- (b) Utilize a systematic approach to provide individualized, goal-directed nursing care by:
 - (i) performing comprehensive nursing assessments regarding the health status of the client(s);
 - (ii) formulating a nursing care plan based on determination of nursing diagnoses;
 - (iii) implementing nursing care within the RN's scope of practice, including compliance with other laws are applicable to the RN's practice setting;
 - (iv) developing and implementing teaching plans for clients concerning promotion, maintenance and restoration of health;
 - (v) providing for the care of multiple clients (individual and family) either through direct care or assignment and/or delegation of care to other members of the health care team;
 - (vi) evaluate client's (individual and family) responses and outcomes to therapeutic interventions; and
 - (vii) utilize a critical thinking approach to analyze clinical data and current literature as a basis for decision making in nursing practice.

(3) Coordinator of Care:

Make assignments to licensed staff (LVNs, RNs) and delegate to unlicensed staff in compliance with current BON rules in both structured and unstructured health settings for clients with predictable as well as unpredictable health needs.

(4) Member of a Profession:

- (a) Assume accountability and responsibility for the quality of nursing care provided to clients.
- (b) Act as a client advocate to maintain a safe environment for clients.
- (c) Serve as a healthcare advocate in monitoring and promoting quality of health care and services for client; and
- (d) Participate in activities and act as a leader in promoting best practices within professional nursing.

The table above offers a brief synopsis of how the scope of practice for nurses educated and licensed as vocational nurses differs from nurses educated and licensed as registered nurses. These are minimum competencies, but also set limits on what the LVN or RN can do at his/her given level of licensure, regardless of experience. The interpretive guideline may be viewed in its entirety on the BON web page at www.bon.state.tx.us under the "Nursing Practice Information" section.